

HIGHLAND COUNCIL/NHS HIGHLAND JOINT MONITORING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Highland Council/NHS Highland Joint Monitoring Committee held remotely on Friday 24 February 2023 at 11.30am.

Present:

Highland Council

Mr D Fraser (Vice Chair)
Mrs M Cockburn (sub for Mr R Bremner)
Ms F Duncan
Mr E Foster
Mr R Gunn (sub for Mr A Christie)
Mrs K Lackie
Mr D Louden

NHS Highland

Prof B Robertson (Chair)
Ms A Clark
Ms H Cooper
Ms P Cremin
Ms P Dudek
Ms K Patience-Quate (sub for Ms L Bussell)

Staff Representatives

Ms E Caithness (NHS Highland)

Third Sector, Carer and Service User Representatives

Ms S Brown (Inspiring Young Voices)
Mr C Mair (Scottish Care - Care at Home)
Mr I McNamara (Highland Senior Citizen's Network)

Non Members present

Mr C Munro

Officers Present

Mr D Park, Chief Officer, NHS Highland
Ms G Grant, Interim Head of Commissioning, NHS Highland
Ms E Ward, Deputy Director of Finance, NHS Highland
Ms R Boydell, Head of Service, Community Directorate, NHS Highland
Ms L Cowie, Head of Strategy and Transformation, NHS Highland
Mr G Sell, Head of Programmes (Adult Social Care), NHS Highland
Ms F Malcolm, Head of Integration Adult Social Care, Highland Council
Mr I Kyle, Head of Integrated Children's Services, Highland Council
Mrs L Dunn, Principal Administrator, Highland Council
Ms F MacBain, Senior Committee Officer, Highland Council

Prof Boyd Robertson in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

Mr R Bremner, Mr A Christie, Dr T Allison, Ms L Bussell, Mr J Gibson, and Ms M Wylie.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

3. Finance

a. Highland Health & Social Care Partnership Finance Report

There had been circulated Report No. JMC/02/23 by the Director of Finance, NHS Highland.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- concern was expressed about the current GP situation in Alness and Invergordon and information would be provided to Mr D Louden on this after the meeting;
- both the Council and NHS Highland were under significant financial pressure and the work to produce a balanced budget was appreciated;
- information was sought and provided on the use of Salix Finance, which was not able to be progressed at present;
- the importance of 'growing our own' future workforce was emphasised and the particular issues faced in Highland were being highlighted with the Scottish Government, who were considering the challenges at a national level. The Scottish Rural Medicine Collaborative had brought a level of resilience but could not properly replace permanent, substantive posts. Attention was also drawn to the National Centre for Remote & Rural Health & Social Care, which would be reported on in due course;
- in relation to achieving the necessary savings targets in 2023-24, confidence was not high due to the likelihood of additional pressures and rising costs;
- information was requested on the number of graduate trainees going through the Scottish Graduate Entry Medicine Programme. It was reported that positive experience feedback had been received from enrolled students in the Highlands which it was hoped would make them more inclined to stay in the north to work. The ability to support the training and welfare of trainees was essential;
- it was confirmed that all of the 2021-22 non-Covid reserves would be used to balance the 2023-24 NHS Highland budget, leaving an outstanding gap of £4m;
- it was confirmed that a high-level NHS Highland 3-year financial plan was to be submitted to the Scottish Government by March 2023. This would help to gauge the scale of the transformation required;
- it was suggested that business data on volume and activity was required alongside financial information to facilitate proper scrutiny and make long term projections. This data should be provided on a locality basis as well as Highland-wide, and assurance was provided that locality plans were being referenced in the Strategic Plan; and
- information was sought and provided on the current situation with regard to the expenditure of covid funding. The NHS Highland Head of Strategy and Transformation and the Deputy Chief Officer could provide further information on this, if required, outwith the meeting.

Thereafter, the Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the financial position at the end of Month 9 2022/23; and
- ii. **NOTED** the forward projection for 2023/24.
- iii. **AGREED** to provide Mr D Louden with an update on the GP situation in Easter Ross; and

- iv. **AGREED** information on the number of graduate trainees going through the Scottish Graduate Entry Medicine Programme be provided to the Committee.

b. Highland Council Finance Report

There had been circulated Joint Report No. JMC/03/22 by the Highland Council Executive Chief Officer Health and Social Care and Head of Finance.

During discussion, with reference to the need to optimise the potential of the integration of children's and adults' services, the NHS Highland Chief Executive pointed out the importance of considering the recent Children's Inspection report and the improvement plan that would emerge from it.

Mr Ed Foster was thanked on behalf of the Committee for his work, and wished well for the future, this being his final JMC meeting.

The Committee **NOTED** the:

- i. forecast revenue position as at Quarter 3 of the 2022/23 financial year and the narrative in relation to the underspend in Integrated Children's Services; and
- ii. 2023/24 financial outlook and anticipated funding contributions from partners.

4. Integrated Adult Services Strategic Plan and Strategic Planning Group Update

There had been circulated Joint Report No. JMC/04/23 by the Highland Council Executive Chief Officer (Health and Social Care) and the NHS Highland Chief Officer.

A presentation included the current position, background, vision and aims, case for change, what the Plan meant for the wider population, the financial context, what services were included, health inequalities, and modelling of future need in localities.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:

- although considerable work had gone into meeting the tight timescales for the development of the Plan, ongoing work was still required, particularly in relation to engagement, which was considered by all to be essential and not something that should be rushed. The Plan was likely to be an ongoing process with regular adjustments, to ensure all stakeholders, including the third sector and communities bought into it. The original aim to finalise the plan by May 2023 was considered too tight, and revised timescales would be brought to the JMC meeting on 29 March 2023;
- assurance was sought that consideration was being given to pre-enablement (anticipatory care / prevention), including discussion of this with stakeholders. The NHS Highland Depute Nurse Director could provide more information if required outwith the meeting;
- it was important to use understandable language in the Plan;
- it was considered that 'engagement', or 'participation', were more appropriate words than 'consultation';

- reference was made to the Integrated Children's Services Plan which was being developed with similar principles, with a key focus on transitions. The benefits of working in partnership on both Plans were highlighted;
- workforce issues required as much focus as financial challenges;
- it was queried whether all stakeholders, particularly smaller third sector organisations, would have the necessary capacity and resources to fully engage with the development of the Plan and consideration should be given to reviewing investment in stakeholders;
- young people should be included in the engagement / participation process;
- attention was drawn to the role of the community planning partnership, and to the valuable contribution from members of the public; and
- feedback from the JMC would be taken to the strategic planning group before the Plan was brought back to the JMC.

Thereafter, the Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the current status of the Strategic Plan and the forward intentions and timescales for completion and approval of this plan;
- ii. **AGREED** revised timescales be submitted to the Committee meeting on 29 March 2023;
- iii. **APPROVED** the draft Terms of Reference for the Strategic Planning Group; and
- iv. **NOTED** the current position regarding membership appointment.

5. Revised Joint Monitoring Committee Membership

The Committee:

- i. **APPROVED** the revised membership details as circulated, subject to Sandra Brown being listed as a User Representative for Inspiring Young Voices;
- ii. **NOTED** the intention to undertake engagement in relation to filling the vacant carer representation position; and
- iii. **NOTED** that Brian Porter would replace Ed Foster for the Highland Council Head of Corporate Finance position from March 2023.

The meeting ended at 12.55pm